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Pirates Split On Saturday, Eliminated From PBC Tournament





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FLORENCE, S.C. - The Armstrong Atlantic State softball squad split a pair of games in the 2010 PBC Softball Championships on Saturday, earning a 4-1 win over No. 15 Augusta State in the morning contest, but falling 9-1 to USC Aiken in the afternoon, ending the Pirates' run in the tournament.

The Pirates (33-18) will now have a lengthy wait to see if they will advance to the 2010 NCAA Softball Championships as bids will be awarded on May 10. AASU was ranked No. 4 in the latest Southeast Region rankings, released on Wednesday.

AASU faced off against Augusta State in a morning elimination game and freshman All-Conference pitcher **Megan Barnwell** was up to the task. Barnwell (15-7) limited the Jaguars to just three hits and one run in seven innings, walking four and striking out 13 to pick up her second win of the tournament and earn All-PBC Tournament honors as well.

The Pirates scored a run in the top of the first on April Jowers' leadoff double, a sacrifice bunt and a sacrifice fly by Baillie Temples. Shelby Duff knocked in a run with a double in the fourth, then another sacrifice fly - this time by Erin Billingsley - plated a run in the fifth. AASU finished its scoring in the sixth on another sacrifice fly, this one by Ashley Buckett.

Augusta State's only run came in the fourth on a solo home run by Kacee Camp.

Sara DeMuth (15-8) took the loss for the Jaguars, giving up five hits and four runs - three earned - in seven innings, walking two and striking out six.

In game two, the Pirates fell behind early as the Pacers plated three in the top of the third. AASU plated its run in the bottom of the third when Erin Billingsley scored from second on an error by the Pacers, but USC Aiken put the game out of reach with two runs in each of the fourth, sixth and seventh innings.

Shelby Duff (10-5) took the loss for the Pirates, giving up five hits and three runs in 2 2/3 innings, walking three and striking out one. Toni Flessate (15-10) picked up the win, giving up six hits and one run in seven innings, walking one and striking out 11.





ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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